

TITLE: RAISED EMBROIDERY PROCESS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(a) Technical Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a raised embroidery process, and is
5 particularly to one process applicable to all kinds of fabric and articles so as to obtain a raised embroidery masterpiece.

(b) Description of the Prior Art

There are many kinds of embroideries on general fabric, such as plane embroidery, extruding embroidery, etc. Plane embroidery is directly
10 processed on a fabric without adding any filler such that the thread will be stitched through the fabric to appear a plane embroidery pattern. Extruding embroidery is processed by pre-placing a filler on the area to be embroidered and covering said embroidering area with the filler by thread, so as to accomplish an extruding embroidery work.

15 Extruding embroidery process in the prior art generally adopts pile-up process, i.e. stitching on the fabric from a smaller embroidery portion and piling up the thread layer-by-layer until the thread layer has extruded. However, such extruding embroidery process is quite time-and-cost consuming, which cannot be considered as an ideal process.

20 In view of the above, improved extruding embroidery processes have

been disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,832,854, 5,947,044 and 6,164,228.

In U.S. Patent No. 5,832,854, the extruding embroidery is processed by pre-perforating densely on the filler along the outline of the 3D embroidery pattern via needle without thread such that the filler on the fabric may have
5 consecutive interval perforations in-between the portion to be covered by thread and the portion not to be covered by thread, covering the embroidery pattern by needles with threads, and finally taking off the leftover filler to complete an extruding embroidery work.

In the above-mentioned disclosure, the perforation actually goes through
10 the fabric, so that the fabric would have consecutive interval perforations as those left on the filler, followed by the subsequent embroidering process makes a closer perforations on the outline of the 3D embroidery pattern, which has the following disadvantages:

1. The formation of consecutive interval perforations is quite
15 time-consuming, rendering a low efficiency in mass production.
2. Additional stitch on the consecutive interval perforations lessens the tensile strength of the fabric along the outline of the 3D embroidery pattern due to the fabric's being destroyed by the consecutive interval perforations. While the fabric may have uneven perforation intervals,
20 when the fabric is under tensile force, which would become uneven

consequently, the fabric under the edge of the 3D embroidery pattern would become easily worn.

3. In U.S. Patent No. 5,832,854, it requires much time and work to adhere or sew the filler on the background material for affixing purposes.

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Regarding U.S. Patent No. 5,947,044, the disclosure differs from that of U.S. Patent No. 5,832,854 in terms of the filler placed on the fabric, which will shrink in volume when being heated (i.e. heat shrink material). Via a computerized embroidering machine, the filler is covered by thread according to the embroidery pattern. After the unembroidered filler is torn off, the edge of the embroidery pattern is baked by heat such that the filler left with the edge of the raised embroidery will shrink inside and that a raised embroidery work is completed.

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While the disclosure emphasize heating the extruded embroidery edge to shrink the leftover filler, the heating procedure is conducted manually on the embroidery work one by one, rendering uneven heating effect, much time and work, higher cost, and inferior quality.

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Furthermore, in case leftover fillers of bigger size expose, even if applying heat cannot make it shrunk and hidden inside of the embroidery threads, thereby making a rough edge of the embroidery pattern. In addition,

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the relevant skills of shrinking the filler by a heater have already been disclosed in Japanese Patent No. 7-316973 (filed on May 23, 1994) which is much earlier than U.S. Patent No. 5,947,044 (filed on February 10, 1998).

Further referring to U.S. Patent No. 6,164,228, the main object is to place
5 a filler of proper size, hardness and thickness on the fabric; covering an area smaller than the desired pattern via a computerized embroidering machine; removing the unnecessary leftover filler to form an inner protruding embroidery layer smaller than the desired pattern; and covering and shading the inner layer by thread, so as to complete an embroidery work. However,
10 in such process, large quantity of threads and process time would be required, thus increasing the cost.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the invention is to provide an embroidery process, which allows passing the whole embroidery fabric along with the filler through an oven conveyor at a pre-set temperature, so that the filler will shrink
5 evenly to form an aesthetic raised embroidery pattern.

Another object of the invention is to provide a raised embroidery process, which includes embroidery paths, which are specifically designed for process without pre-fixing filler or pre-perforating densely on the background fabric.

Another object of the invention is to provide a raised embroidery process,
10 which doesn't need embroidering twice to cover the leftover fillers.

To reach the above objects, the present invention includes the following steps:

- A. placing a piece of filler on an embroidering background fabric such that the filler, having a size larger than that of the raised embroidery
15 pattern, may cover the pre-determined embroidery pattern;
- B. conducting a supplementary embroidering procedure, i.e. sewing by threads of appropriate colors from the edge of short sides of the embroidery pattern toward the inner portion of the pattern, thereby a part of the filler can be sewed and affixed to the corresponding
20 background fabric;

- C. entirely wrapping up the embroidering portion of the filler and the background fabric by sewing with threads of various colors along the pre-determined embroidery paths (50a, 50b, 50c);
- D. removing the outer portion of the filler surrounding the embroidering portion from the embroidering portion, and passing the whole background fabric with the wrapped filler through an oven conveyor at a pre-set temperature, so that the filler will shrink to form an aesthetic raised embroidery pattern; and
- E. in case tiny filler stubs expose out of the inter-threads, they can be tucked into the embroidery pattern and hidden inside by a small sharp stick, thereby embellishing the embroidery pattern.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows step A of the invention.

Fig. 2 shows step B of the invention.

Fig. 3 shows step C of the invention.

5 Fig. 4 shows step C of the invention.

Fig. 5 is a schematic view showing the invention during the process when step C is accomplished.

Fig. 6 shows step D of the invention.

10 Fig. 7 shows embellishing the embroidery by a sharp stick during the process.

Fig. 8 is a partially enlarged view of the embroidery during the process.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figs. 1 to 6, the raised embroidery process according to the present invention can pass the whole embroidery fabric along with the filler through an oven conveyor for heating purposes. This process not only can be adapted to mass production, but also can evenly shrink the filler to achieve embroidery masterpieces. Besides, the pre-designed embroidery paths can spare the procedure of affixing the filler or pre-perforating densely on the background fabric. The present invention includes the following steps:

- A. placing a piece of filler 20 on an embroidering background fabric 20 such that the filler 20, having a size larger than that of the raised embroidery pattern, may cover the pre-determined embroidery pattern 30 (as shown in Fig. 1);
- B. conducting a supplementary embroidering procedure on the short sides A or wherever necessary (such as the area 41 where different directions of outmost surface embroidering threads of the 3D embroidery design being adjacent), i.e. sewing by threads of appropriate colors from the edge of short sides 40 of the embroidery pattern toward the inner portion of the pattern, and on the adjoining area 41 (*In the absence of said supplementary embroidering step, the filler will easily expose on the short sides A or on the adjoining

area 41); the supplementary embroidery procedure further includes sewing the connecting stitches 42 between said short sides and/or said adjoining areas of the pattern, thereby a part of the filler 20 can be sewed and affixed to the corresponding background fabric 10 (as shown in Fig. 2);

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- C. entirely wrapping up the embroidering portion of the filler and the background fabric 10 by sewing with threads 60 of various colors along the pre-determined embroidery paths 50a, 50b, 50c (as shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 5, respectively);

10 In the preferred embodiment as shown, the embroidery path 50a is for stitching threads to cover half of the adjoining area 41, while embroidery paths 50b and 50c will cover the remaining half of the adjoining area 41, thereby the filler 20 would not expose from the adjoining area 41 of threads of different embroidery paths 50a, 50b or occur unexpected extrusions.

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- D. removing the outer portion of the filler surrounding the embroidering portion from the embroidering portion, and passing the whole background fabric 10 with the wrapped filler 60 through an oven conveyor at a pre-set temperature, so that the filler stubs will shrink
- 20 to make the side edges of the raised embroidering pattern more

aesthetic (as shown in Fig. 6).

By way of the above steps, a fine piece of raised embroidery can be accomplished. The process according to the invention can permit efficient production. While the filler can be various materials, in the case of rayon of longer fiber, before the step of shorting filler 70 whose periphery is not wrapped by threads and the filler 60 already wrapped by threads, step E can be additional applied to the filler stubs not completed shrunk, if any, as follows:

- E. If tiny filler stubs still expose out of the inter-threads stitched along the embroidery paths 50a, 60b or 50c, they can be tucked into the embroidery pattern and hidden inside by a small sharp stick 80 (as shown in Fig. 7), thereby embellishing the embroidery pattern.

Concluded above, in one preferred embodiment as shown in Figs. 4 and 8, when proceeding the supplementary embroidering procedure on the short sides A of the embroidery pattern (as shown in Fig. 2) or the area 41 where different directions of outmost surface embroidering threads of the 3D embroidery design being adjacent (as shown in Fig. 2). Whereas the connecting stitches (42) in-between said short sides and/or said adjoining areas is processed inside the edge of the raised embroidery pattern area (30), such that the threads going along the embroidery paths 50a, 50b, 50c will spread all

over the raised embroidery pattern area 30 and entirely cover and wrap the supplementary embroidering on each short side 40 and/or said adjoining areas, as well as the connecting stitches 42 portion.

While certain novel features of this invention have been shown and
5 described and are pointed out in the annexed Claims, it is not intended to be limited to the details above, since it will be understood that various omissions, modifications, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.